



Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform to Identify “Short List” of Proposals
For In-Depth Assessment
*Commissioners Meet May 17-18***

Denver, Colo., May 15, 2007 – The Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform will meet May 17-18 to select three-to-five comprehensive health reform proposals, from those submitted to the Commission, for detailed analysis of anticipated cost and coverage impacts.

The Commission will meet at the following times and locations:

May 17: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Metropolitan State College Administration Building, Room 570-575
1201 5th St., Denver
(<http://www.mscd.edu/enroll/admissions/campus/map/>) for map

May 18: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Mile High United Way, Founders Room
2505 18th Street, Denver
(http://www.milehighunitedway.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ContactUs_location) for map

Both meetings are open to the public.

Thirty-one health reform proposals were submitted to the Commission for consideration. Commissioners met May 7 and identified an interim slate of 11 to be considered for technical evaluation. At five community meetings around the state on May 10 and 12, commissioners received testimony from members of the public about the features and principles they believe to be most essential to effective health reform. Commissioners will consider that input as they select the three-to-five proposals to undergo detailed technical analysis. That analysis is the next step in fulfilling the Commission’s charge of making recommendations for comprehensive health reform to the General Assembly.

The 11 proposals identified for consideration were:

Better Health Care for Colorado –

proposed by Service Employees International Union

Comprehensive Health Care Plan for Colorado –

proposed by CLUB 20

Solutions for a Healthy Colorado –

proposed by Colorado State Assn. of Health Underwriters

A Phased Approach To Achieving Universal Health Coverage in Colorado –

proposed by Kaiser Permanente Colorado

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Connecting Care and Health for Colorado –

proposed by Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

An Individual-Based Insurance System Combining Free Market Principles with an Appropriate Role for Government –

proposed by South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce

Healthy Colorado Now –

proposed by Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved

Community of Caring –

proposed by Colorado Community Health Network, Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado Access, Colorado Behavioral Health Council

A Plan for Covering Coloradans –

proposed by Committee for Colorado Health Care Solutions

Colorado Health Services Program –

proposed by Health Care for all Colorado Coalition

FAIR Health Care –

proposed by Brian Schwartz

All proposals are available for review at the Commission's Web site,
www.colorado.gov/208commission.

The Commission has retained The Lewin Group to perform the technical evaluation. Their preliminary analysis is due July 15. The Commission is required to make final recommendations for comprehensive health care reform to the General Assembly by November 30, 2007.

About the Commission

Colorado has 770,000 uninsured residents with nearly 180,000 of them children. Public opinion polls show concern about health care as the top issue for Americans. Coloradans, like most Americans, are anxious for solutions to the rising cost of health care and the growing number of people who cannot afford health insurance.

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform was created by the Colorado Legislature in 2006. The Commission is charged with making recommendations for comprehensive health care reform with the goal of increasing health care coverage and decreasing costs for Colorado residents, with particular emphasis on the issues of the uninsured, underinsured, and those at risk of financial hardship due to the costs of medical care.

For additional information please contact Edie Sonn at 720-201-7307, Anita Wesley at 303-837-8466, ext. 137 or e-mail the Commission at 208commission@coloradofoundation.org.

Follow the work of the Commission at www.colorado.gov/208commission.

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